

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08

EUR-12 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CU-04 AGRE-00 DOTE-00 /060 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SUVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6015

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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DEPT PASS ALL ACP AND EC POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EAID, EEC, FJ

SUBJECT: ACP DEPSEC GEN REMARKS PRIOR TO EEC/ACP MEETING

1. IN FIJI TIMES INTERVIEW OF APRIL 11, ACP DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL EDWIN CARRINGTON (JAMAICA), GAVE HIS VIEWS ON ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED AT THIS WEEK'S EEC/ACP COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEETING IN SUVA, AND EXPECTATIONS OF MEETING RESULTS. CARRINGTON'S VIEWS SUMMARIZED BELOW. ALL STATEMENTS ARE HIS UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

2. ACP WANTS TO COME OUT OF MEETINGS WITH AN ACTION PROGRAM THAT WILL PUT SUVA ON THE MAP, JUST AS THE LOME CONVENTION DID FOR AFRICA AND THE GEORGETOWN AGREEMENT DID FOR THE CARIBBEAN. IT MIGHT BE CALLED THE SUVA ACTION PROGRAM.

3. THE DISCUSSIONS IN SUVA WILL COVER TWO MAJOR AREAS, COOPERATION AMONG THE ACP COUNTRIES AND ACP RELATIONSHIPS WITH THE EEC. AREAS OF COOPERATION AMONG ACP COUNTRIES MUST BE SPECIFIED, INCLUDING TRADE, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS, UNCLASSIFIED

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INFORMATION, EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS, AND TECHNICAL EXCHANGE. SOME DELEGATES CONSIDER THIS ASPECT OF THE SUVA MEETING TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE EEC COUNTRIES. STUDENTS DO NOT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE SENT TO BRITAIN, ACP COUNTRIES CAN ENGAGE IN MANY MORE HORIZONTAL EXCHANGES.

4. OF HIGH PRIORITY WILL BE STRENGTHENING OF ACP SECRETARIAT, WHICH HAS NOT BEEN AS EFFECTIVE OR STRONGLY ESTABLISHED AS IT NEEDED TO BE. OPERATING WITHOUT A GOOD SECRETARIAT IS LIKE OPERATING A BODY WITHOUT A GOOD BRAIN.

5. REGARDING SECOND MAJOR AREA OF ACP RELATIONSHIPS WITH EEC, DISCUSSIONS WILL CONCENTRATE ON REVIEW OF FUNCTIONS OF THE LOME CONVENTION WHICH CONTAINS TRADE AND AID AGREEMENTS. ACP COUNTRIES WILL LOOK AT THE PROBLEMS AFFECTING TRADE, AND FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION. MOST OF THE PROBLEMS AT THE MOMENT ARE CONCERNING TRADE.

6. THE WAY THINGS ARE DONE (BY THE EEC) IS A GREATER PROBLEM THAN THE SPECIFIC ISSUES OF BANANAS AND SUGAR. IT IS THE ATTITUDE OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN DEALING WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY ARE NOT USED TO DEALING WITH THEM AS EQUAL PARTNERS, WORKING TOWARDS INTERDEPENDENCE AND BUILDING A NEW ORDER.

7. THE EEC LAST YEAR DID NOT NEGOTIATE IN THE PROPER SPIRIT. THIS YEAR THEY HAVE GIVEN ASSURANCES BUT HAVE NOT DELIVERED. THEY HAVE TAKEN DECISIONS WHICH ARE OUTRAGEOUS AND HOSTILE TO THE SPIRIT OF THE PARTNERSHIP, AN EXAMPLE OF THE PROBLEM OF THEIR WAY OF DEALING WITH DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THEY HAVE TRIED TO PREDETERMINE THE SITUATION WITHOUT CONSULTATION, BUT WE WILL WAIT TO NEGOTIATE, NO MATTER HOW LATE TALKS BEGIN. SUGAR PRICE TALKS, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY NOT BEGIN UNTIL MAY. THE EEC DOES NOT REALIZE THE EFFECT OF SUGAR ON THE LOME CONVENTION, IT TOUCHES THE CONTROL NERVE.

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WE KNOW THE ALL-EMBRACING IMPLICATIONS OF SUGAR, YOU CANNOT MEASURE ITS IMPACT IN DOLLARS AND CENTS.

8. BANANAS AND GROUNDNUTS ARE OTHER PARTICULAR PROBLEMS. EEC COUNTRIES ARE BUYING MORE AND MORE BANANAS FROM NON-ACP COUNTRIES WHILE ACP BANANAS ARE ROTTING OR GOING FOR LOW PRICES. EEC REGULATIONS AGAINST AFLATOXIN IS LIMITING SALES OF GROUNDNUTS, AND ACP COUNTRIES BELIEVE THE STRINGENT ENFORCEMENT OF THESE REGULATIONS CAN HARDLY BE JUSTIFIED. ALSO OF CONCERN IS TRADE PREFERENCES BEING EXTENDED BY EEC COUNTRIES TO NON-ACP COUNTRIES.

9. THERE ARE SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS TO THE RELATIONSHIP AS WELL, INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, AND THE BENEFITS OF THE FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION SCHEMES. THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE ACP, WHICH INCLUDE SOME OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD, NEED SPECIAL MEASURES, AND THE ACP WILL TRY TO GET THE EEC TO SEE THE VALIDITY

OF THIS AND SET UP A COMMITTEE TO CONTINUALLY LOOK AT THEIR SITUATION. LANDLOCKED COUNTRIES, AS WELL AS THOSE ISOLATED BY DISTANCE AND WATER, WOULD ALSO DESERVE SPECIAL MEASURES.

10. FINALLY, CARRINGTON SAID THE ACP HOPED TO PUT MORE EMPHASIS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, AS AGAINST AGRICULTURAL MARKETING. HE SAID THE ACP HAD WANTED TO COME TO THE PACIFIC, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE RATU MARA (THE PRIME MINISTER) WAS REGARDED WITH SUCH HIGH ESTEEM.
FLANEGIN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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